

REMARKS

In the March 20, 2009 Office Action, claim 38 stands rejected in view of prior art, while claims 1-37 and 41-51 were indicated to be allowable. Also, claims 39 and 40 were objected, but were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the March 30, 2009 Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 38 and 40, and canceled claim 39, as indicated above. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. Thus, claims 1-38 and 40-51 are pending, with claims 1-3, 31, 38, and 40 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In items 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claim 38 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002-0161745 (Call). In response, Applicants have amended claim 38 to incorporate claimed limitations of claim 39.

Since claim 39 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 38 is allowable. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim Objection

In item 5 of the Office Action, claims 39 and 40 stand objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 38. In response, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 39 into claim 38, canceled claim 39, and amended claim 40 in an independent form. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 40 is now allowable. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/539,556
Amendment dated June 19, 2009
Reply to Office Action of March 20, 2009

Allowable Subject Matter

In item 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-37 and 41-45 were indicated as allowed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication and the thorough examination of this application.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-38 and 40-51 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Akiyoshi Onda /
Akiyoshi Onda
Reg. No. 63,773

GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP
1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
(202)-293-0444
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